

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP99/04836 filed July 9, 1999**

Original claims 1-10 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 11-24 solely for the purpose of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and not for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

New claims 11-24 have not been added in response to any rejection, nor in anticipation of any rejection related to the statutory requirements for a patent. Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of new claims 11-24 corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-10 and that new claims 11-24 are no narrower than original claims 1-10. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 1-10 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, as filed. New claims 11-24 are supported by the specification and no new matter has been introduced. Entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested.

Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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